



Porter Henderson Library Faculty Newsletter



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A Word from the Director

..... Dr. Maurice G. Fortin (942-2222, ext. 222)

As the calendar approaches the holiday season, please accept greetings from the staff of the Library. We hope everyone will have a great and safe holiday season. If you have any comments or suggestions for the Library, please send them to me (Maurice.Fortin@angelo.edu) or stop by the Library for a chat and a cup of coffee.

The construction process continues at a rapid pace. You have probably noticed the change in the appearance of the new floor. The construction crews began installing glass panels into the framework around the building. They will have the floor “weathered” in before the cold weather begins. Work also began on pouring the floor for the new television studio. This room will be isolated from the rest of the building. This will insure high quality sound for the television productions.

Representatives from the Physical Plant were working with each of the groups that will have space on the new floor to determine signage, counter heights, and other finishing details. Dr. Coers chaired a meeting on October 29th that worked out details on the procedure for ordering equipment and furniture for all of the offices, labs, storerooms, and classrooms.

On October 21st, President Hindman, Dr. Coers, and others toured the construction site. Nearly all of the framework was installed for the interior walls. The shape and size for each area were easy to distinguish.



The construction crew will be using the alcove space (over the front entrance) on Second Floor as a staging area for the ductwork and sprinkler installation process. They will move the furniture in that area to the north side of the floor near the new elevator shaft and will make sure there is always a path open to the computer lab.

The sprinkler installation process for the Basement and Third Floor is nearing completion. Gayland Hall, with Lee Lewis Construction, expects this crew to start work on the Second Floor within two weeks.

The Second Floor restrooms will be off-line for a much longer time than originally thought. The plumbing in this restroom area will need to be tied into the plumbing for the new restrooms on the Third Floor. Until that is ready, the Second Floor restrooms will need to be off-line.

In this issue of the *Newsletter* you will learn about changes in Interlibrary Loan and in the TexShare databases, two new online resources in RamNet, and “book lust” in government documents. There is also photographic evidence of a “cloning experiment” in the Library on October 31st. (Whether or not it is an experiment “gone horribly wrong” is up to the reader to decide. See the HTML version of the newsletter for a better look at the picture.)

ERIC: End of an Era

ERIC will begin a transition in late December as a new U.S. Department of Education contractor develops a new model for the ERIC database and services. ERIC Clearinghouse websites, including AskERIC, and their toll-free telephone numbers will close on December 19, 2003. Change your ERIC bookmarks to <http://www.eric.ed.gov>

Two New Online Resources: GeoRef and Mergent Online

..... Antonella Ward, Electronic Resources Librarian

Two new databases, GeoRef and Mergent Online, have been added to the RamNet family.

GeoRef, the database of the American Geological Institute (AGI), covers worldwide technical literature on geology and geophysics. The database corresponds to the print publications *Bibliography and index of North American geology*, *Bibliography of theses in geology*, *Geophysical abstracts*, *Bibliography and index of geology exclusive of North America*, and the *Bibliography and index of geology*.



GeoRef organizes and indexes papers from over 13,000 serials and other publications representative of the interests of the 29 professional geological and earth science societies that are members of the AGI. Coverage is international in scope with about 40% of the indexed publications originating in the United States and the remainder from outside the U.S. Publications of international organizations represent about 7% of the file. The database includes current coverage of over 3,500 journals as well as books and book chapters, conference papers, government publications, theses, dissertations, reports, maps, and meeting papers.

The subject coverage of the publications indexed in GeoRef includes the following major areas:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Areal geology | • Marine geology |
| • Economic geology | • Mathematical geology |
| • Energy sources | • Mineralogy |
| • Engineering geology | • Mining geology |
| • Environmental geology | • Paleontology |
| • Extraterrestrial geology | • Petrology |
| • Geochemistry | • Seismology |
| • Geochronology | • Stratigraphy |
| • Geomorphology | • Structural geology |
| • Geophysics | • Surficial geology |
| • Hydrology | |



Mergent Online provides web-based access to detailed corporate financial histories (including capital changes) and operational histories. It also details property, subsidiaries, officers/directors,

long-term debt, financial statements, capital stock, and financial statements and ratio analysis. The database includes links to news headlines and annual reports.

Features of Mergent Online include:

- U.S. and international coverage;
- Ability to create customized, excel-ready financial statements containing up to 15 years of quarterly data (either as reported, preliminary, or restated), downloadable in the currency of your choice, for one or multiple companies;
- Annual reports back to 1996 and full-text access to the Edgar database of SEC filings;
- Historical tracking of acquisitions, divestitures, stock splits, and other capital changes;
- Coverage of company joint ventures, property, and subsidiaries;
- Long-term debt and capital stock structure;
- Company descriptions, newswires, and geographic and product segmentation data; and
- Ability to screen on a wide variety of criteria (including SIC, NAICS, locations, financials, and text data from financial filings) to identify appropriate companies and generate financial reports for the resulting set of companies.

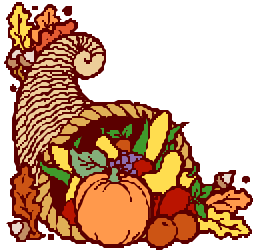
Interlibrary Loan – a Cornucopia of Information!

..... Mark Allan, Head of Reference

To our patrons, interlibrary loan may look like a simple transaction. After all, isn't the Library as a whole just doing what the patron does – identifying a resource, determining its ownership and availability, checking out a book or retrieving a journal article – and then in turn checking out and/or delivering the item to the patron?

The answer is yes, and even more.

The Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Unit of the Library, principally consisting of Sharon Weber, with occasional input from her immediate supervisor, Mark Allan, and aid from her student assistant, Donna Spurlock, conducts all of the interlibrary loan activity for a group exceeding 6,000 students, faculty, and staff. Furthermore, each individual request from our own patrons may involve going to as many as five other libraries to determine if they are able and willing to lend items to our patrons. And that's just on the borrowing side – Sharon also represents the Library with regard to all the requests to lend items to other libraries' patrons from across the United States!



Needless to say, in order to handle this workload the ILL Unit is heavily automated, involving state-of-the-art software, computers, and digitization and communications equipment. However, like all automation processes, occasionally “bugs” do creep in through no fault of the ILL staff. Equipment and software is continually being upgraded and refined to bring the best possible service to our patrons.

So What's New in ILL?

Interlibrary Loan requests may now be placed through all EBSCO databases, as well as all FirstSearch databases. Requesting items through these online services not only facilitates the communication of transactions but helps insure correct citations, while requiring the minimum amount of data input on the part of patrons and speeding up the “turn-around” time of ILL transactions! Additionally, requests that are not made directly through these services may now be directly input into the Library's online catalog, RamCat. While not providing the level of accuracy and “completeness” of submissions as through FirstSearch and EBSCO, submitting requests through RamCat does facilitate the communication and structuring of these requests. All of these online services provide for the easy submission of requests anywhere in the networked world regardless of a patron's physical location!

Once you have identified a particular resource that the Library does not own you make an ILL transaction through an EBSCO or FirstSearch database by filling out the necessary identifying information and submitting your request(s)! (If you are off-campus this may initially require going through Information Technology's Proxy Server and logging in.) To utilize RamCat to submit a request merely click on the ‘ILL Requests’ button and log in with the secure connection utilizing your ASU Campus Wide ID Number and last name.

A Turkey Dinner Without the Pie

The Library no longer has access to several databases that were previously available through the TexShare service provided by the Texas State Library. TexShare was previously funded in its entirety by the Texas State Legislature. However, with the cuts made in the Texas budget this last Legislative Session, the number of databases in TexShare has fallen by roughly 25 percent. In addition, the Library is now currently picking up part of the “tab” for those databases that remain. On the bright side, the TexShare databases and ebooks are still a very good deal for the library, with cost savings of approximately \$389,741 for the information services received. Due to the cuts, however, the Library no longer has access to Alternative Health Watch, Electric Library, the Grolier Encyclopedias, Twayne's Author Series, The Scribner Writers Series, and Twentieth Century English Poetry.



“Book Lust” in Government Documents

..... Janetta Paschal, Government Documents Librarian

"We must not forget that for us reading books is 'the activity which enriches all others.' There is no business, work, sport, skill entertainment, art, or science that cannot be improved by reading and whose rewards cannot be increased by books. The reading of books, as we have seen, is not a passive, marginal social fact but a major national activity. We must use all our technologies to make the most of our inheritance to move toward an American renaissance of the culture of the book."
(Daniel Boorstin quote in *Books in our future: perspectives and proposals*,¹ p. 373-374)

A few weeks ago the moderator of the government documents e-mail discussion list attended a lecture by Nancy Pearl regarding her new book, *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason*. She asked the author why she did not include any government documents. Ms. Pearl responded that she thought all government publications are for research, not for general reading. She said she was asked to write a sequel and would be happy to include government publications if she had a few examples, and reasons why they are so good. The moderator put out “the call” on the list and the rest, as they say, is history.

Apparently every person who works with government publications has personal favorites, and many wrote with information on their particular choices. They ranged from the beautiful, to the funny (e.g., a book on “gobbledygook”²), to the dry but enjoyable, to the useful. Some included titles playing on the word “lust” (e.g., the Tailhook scandal³). Some publications were said to be as exciting as a Tom Clancy novel. (“Tom Clancy, eat your heart out!” wrote one librarian.)

I wanted to see how many of these were available in the Porter Henderson Library and share some of the comments with the university community. The Library has a number of the publications available in the Second Floor Stacks, some are in Reference, and many are in the US Documents collection. Many are also available online. Due to length restrictions I have not included the entire list here, but it is posted on the Library’s web site at <http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/govdocs/list.htm>. As you will see, government publications are not all congressional hearings and reports or dry statistical documents.

Let Us Begin ...

A “reference” title garnering praises from several respondents is *Respectfully quoted: a dictionary of quotations requested from the Congressional Research Service*.⁴ The quotations cover a wide variety of topics, and “some of them are quite memorable.” A congressperson requested each of these quotations which, as one person wrote, “makes you wonder what they were thinking?” The book gives more context than just another book of quotations.

Called “[a] fascinating report of how intelligent, well-informed men with the best intentions can be absolutely wrong” by one documents librarian, Richard Neustadt’s book *The swine flu affair: decision-making on a slippery disease*⁵ also made the list of “good reads.”

For some out-of-this-world adventures you usually cannot surpass the publications produced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A NASA publication receiving favorable comments from several people is *A meeting with the universe: science discoveries from the space program*.⁶ The Library does not have this title in our collection, but you can view it online at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/EP-177/toc.html>.

And then there is that town in New Mexico called “Roswell” and its alleged flying saucer crash to consider. Some respondents admitted that they indulged in and enjoyed the Air Force’s “Roswell reports.”⁷

Are you busy planning your next vacation? The National Park Service handbooks can be an invaluable aid. In addition to guides and advisory information each handbook may include an essay or two on the historical events surrounding the park or battlefield or the natural history of the area. To find out what titles the Library has in our documents collection do a “call number browse” search in RamCat for I 29.9/5 (being sure to include the space and the punctuation).

In case the national parks are too tame for you, another librarian has suggested *Survival in Antarctica*.⁸ “This manual will help you prepare for the possibility, when all seems to be going well, of suddenly being in a survival situation.” (p. 1). I discovered that the Library still has it in our collection so be sure to check out some of

the survival skills. (Most may be unneeded during West Texas winters, but you never know what may be in store in the future.)

Another publication that might be of use if you are planning a trip to a foreign country is *Culture matters: the Peace Corps cross-cultural workbook*.⁹ It covers perceptions of Americans abroad, how other cultures view time and obligations to family, and many other interesting topics. The book helps prepare Peace Corps volunteers for the cultural adjustments they have to make in their assignments, but one librarian recommends it to anthropology students and any students studying abroad.

The Army, Air Force, and Navy have produced a number of histories which were recommended by several people, especially those interested in military history and Western history. Although some books were termed dry, but interesting, one librarian wrote that they know the books are being read from the number of calls they had received from veterans who said that their units were *not* where the books said they were.

One librarian felt that the History Office of the Air Force publication *Splendid vision, unswerving purpose: developing air power for the United States Air Force during the first century of powered flight*¹⁰ should be sold as a coffee table book. "It has the greatest fold-out timeline in it." Another called *From Huffman Prairie to the moon: the history of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base*¹¹ a "great reading suggestion for the Centennial of Aviation"

Several government agencies have produced departmental and agency histories. A history of the Interior Department has the fun title, *The Department of everything else*.¹² This publication is not in our collection but it is available online at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/utley-mackintosh/

A short book prepared during the country's bicentennial celebration by political cartoonist Bill Mauldin, *Mud & guts: a look at the common soldier of the American revolution*,¹³ is also fun to read. The Foreword calls it "[a]n informal study in text and cartoons of the Revolutionary troops, with particular emphasis on the life of the common foot soldier." The book was published on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Washington's encampment at Valley Forge.

Are espionage thrillers more your "cup of tea?" If so, check out the 1999-2000 issue of *Studies in intelligence*.¹⁴ The cover article¹⁵ in this unclassified anthology from a classified CIA journal is the otherwise untold story of the Agency's involvement in the primarily-Canadian rescue of U.S. embassy personnel from Iran. Rather than the usual quiet and low-key method of slipping people out of an unfriendly country, the CIA went dramatically the other direction by creating a phony Hollywood film company and teaching the escapees to pretend to be directors, writers, etc., supposedly scouting out a film site in Iran. (Hey, it worked.) Other issues of *Studies in intelligence* can be found online at: <http://www.odci.gov/csi/studies.html> or <http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS4334>

In one of the Venona reports on Soviet espionage¹⁶ during the Cold War era we found out about local spies among us. (To find other "exciting" titles produced by the CIA do a "call number browse" search in RamCat for PREX 3.17 or PREX 3.18.)

The government also produces books geared toward younger readers. One which captivated the documents staff here when it was received two years ago is *The adventure of Echo the bat*.¹⁷ The book uses Landsat images of the five habitats Echo travels as a backdrop for the adventure. When the flaps on the pages are lifted, pictures of the land features are displayed underneath. This title also has an interactive web site at <http://imagers.gsfc.nasa.gov/echohome.html> with a multimedia adventure game and an activity guide with lesson plans and reproducible hands-on activities.

One of the criteria that most government documents librarians would agree does *not* make a document a "good read" is how many people are reading it at any given time. A case in point is the "Starr report,"¹⁸ although for a short time most of America seemed to be reading it to find out about the Clinton scandal going on in Washington.

Check out some of these books for yourself.

For a smile or two –

What else do documents staffs think about the publications they enjoy so much? For the Minnesota Library Association's Government Documents Round Table's "READ (Docs)" campaign government documents staff in the state chose their favorite publications, grabbed a camera, and let loose their creativity. Go to <http://govpubs.lib.umn.edu/forum/read2003.phtml> to see the results. Be sure to look at #27 (*MMWR: Morbidity and mortality weekly report*) and #40 (*Roswell report: case closed*) in particular.

Endnotes

1. Washington: Library of Congress, 1987, prepared under the Center for the Book. (Second Floor Stacks: Z1003.2 .L52 1984 Suppl.). Called by one librarian "a wonderful source of quotations and bibliographical references" the original was published in 1987 as a supplement to the same title, 1984.
2. *Gobbledygook has gotta go* by John O'Hayre (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1966 (I 53.2:G 53). "A long out of print and wildly out of date (all government employees are assumed to be men) attack on bureaucratese. Delightful." [The Library's shelflist card for this call number show that we did receive the document, but apparently someone wanted to add it to their personal collection; it has long-since vanished from the shelves.]
3. *Tailhook 91*. Washington, DC: Dept. of Defense, Office of Inspector General, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations: Assistant Inspector General for Departmental Inquiries, 1992-1993 (D 1.2:T 13/pt.2) [The Library only received part 2: "Events at the 35th Annual Tailhook Symposium." Part 1 is "Review of the Navy investigations."]. Also, *Women in the military: the Tailhook affair and the problem of sexual harassment: report of the Military Personnel and Compensation Subcommittee and Defense Policy Panel of the Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, One Hundred Second Congress, second session*. Washington: U.S. G.P.O., 1992 (US Documents microfiche: Y 4.AR 5/2:W 84)
4. Washington: Library of Congress, 1989 (Second Floor Stacks: PN6081 .R435 1989). Later ed.: *Respectfully quoted: a dictionary of quotations from the Library of Congress*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., c1992 (Ref. PN6081 .R435 1992).
5. Neustadt, Richard E. and Fineberg, Harvey V. Washington: Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1978 (HE 1.2:SW 6)
6. Washington, D.C.: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1981. (NAS 1.19:177). [The Library does not have this title, but it can be accessed online.]
7. *The Roswell report: fact versus fiction in the New Mexico desert*. Washington, DC: Headquarters U.S. Air Force: For sale by the U.S. G.P.O, Supt. of Docs., 1995 (D 301.82/7:R 73). McAndrew, James. *The Roswell report: case closed*. Washington, D.C.: Headquarters United States Air Force: For sale by the Supt. of Docs, U.S. G.P.O., 1997 (D 301.2:R 73)
8. Washington, D.C.: National Science Foundation, Division of Polar Programs, 1984 (NS 1.2:Su 7)
9. Washington, D.C.: The Peace Corps: For sale by the U.S. G.P.O., Supt. of Docs., 1997 (PE 1.2:C 89)
10. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio: History Office, Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Materiel Command ; Washington, D.C.: Air Force History and Museums Program, U.S. Air Force: For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O., 2002 (D 301.82/7:C 33)
11. Walker, Lois E., Wickam, Shelby E. Washington, D.C.: Air Force Logistics Command, 1986. (D 301.2:H 62/7)
12. Utley, Robert M. and Mackintosh, Barry. *The Department of everything else: highlights of Interior history*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1988. [The Library does not have this title, but it can be accessed online.]
13. Harpers Ferry, W. Va.: Division of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1978 (I 29.2:M 88)
14. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (PREX 3.19:1999-2000)
15. Mendez, Antonio J. "CIA goes Hollywood: a classic case of deception." *Studies in Intelligence* (Winter 1999-2000)
16. *Venona: Soviet espionage and the American response, 1939-1957*. Washington: National Security Agency : Central Intelligence Agency, 1996 (US Documents microfiche: PREX 3.17:V 55)
17. Butcher, Ginger. *The adventure of Echo the bat*. NASA, 2000 (NAS 1.19:2000-09-001-HQ)
18. *Referral from Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr in conformity with the requirements of Title 28, United States Code, section 595(c): communication from Kenneth W. Starr, independent counsel, transmitting a referral to the United States House of Representatives filed in conformity with the requirements of Title 28, United States Code, section 595(c)* [The Library's copy is in microfiche and is now filed with the Serial Set (14496, 14499, 14500, 14501) in the microfiche cabinets in the Reference Room.]



Send in the Clones!

On October 31, some members of the Library staff tried an experiment to "clone" Dr. Fortin. "Results" are (l-r) Nancy "Maurice Fortin" Budewig, Mark "Maurice Fortin" Allan, Nancy "Maurice Fortin" Snodgrass, Angela "Maurice Fortin" Skaggs, the "original" Maurice Fortin, Antonella "Maurice Fortin" Ward, Hongxia "Maurice Fortin" Yang, and Janetta "Maurice Fortin" Paschal. Not pictured here are Javad "Maurice Fortin" Maher and Roselee "Maurice Fortin" Norris. Additional pictures can be accessed via the HTML version of the *Newsletter*. (Photograph by Theresa Fortin.)